STD & SPEC 3.39

DUST CONTROL

DC

Definition

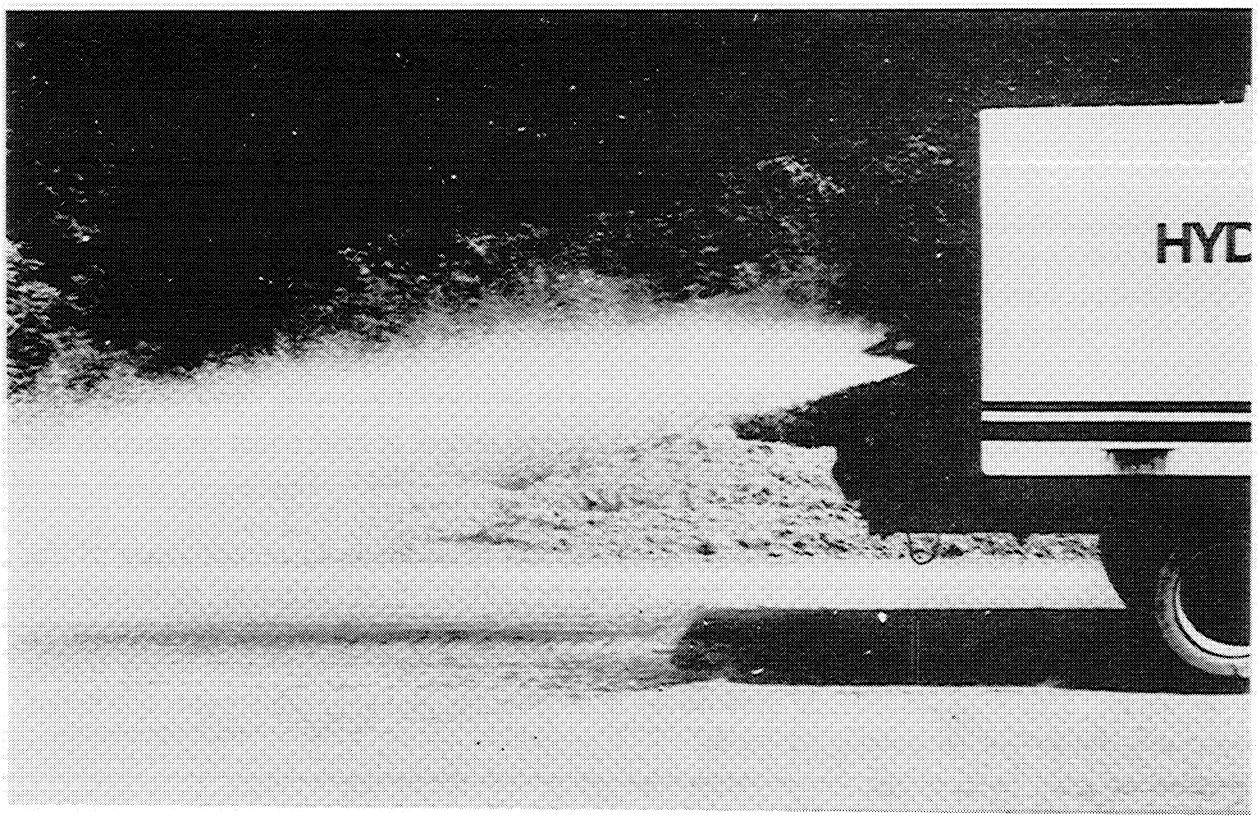
Reducing surface and air movement of dust during land disturbing, demolition and construction activities.

Purpose

To prevent surface and air movement of dust from exposed soil surfaces and reduce the presence of airborne substances which may present health hazards, traffic safety problems or harm animal or plant life.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

In areas subject to surface and air movement of dust where on-site and off-site damage is likely to occur if preventive measures are not taken.



Planning Considerations

Construction activities inevitably result in the exposure and disturbance of soil. Fugitive dust is emitted both during the activities (i.e., excavation, demolition, vehicle traffic, human activity) and as a result of wind erosion over the exposed earth surfaces. Large quantities of dust are typically generated in "heavy" construction activities, such as road and street construction and subdivision, commercial or industrial development, which involve disturbance of significant areas of the soil surface. Research of construction sites has established an average dust emission rate of 1.2 tons/acre/month for active construction. Earth-moving activities comprise the major source of construction dust emissions, but traffic and general disturbance of the soil also generate significant dust emissions.

In planning for dust control, limiting the amount of soil disturbance at any one time should be a key objective. Therefore, phased clearing and grading operations and the utilization of temporary stabilization in accordance with MS #1 can significantly reduce dust emissions. Undisturbed vegetative buffers (minimum 50-foot widths) left between graded areas and protected areas can also be very helpful in dust control.

Temporary Measures Used During Construction

1. Vegetative Cover - In areas subject to little or no construction traffic, a vegetatively stabilized surface will reduce dust emissions (see TEMPORARY SEEDING, Std. & Spec. 3.31).

2. Mulch - When properly applied, mulch offers a fast, effective means of controlling dust. Not recommended for areas within heavy traffic pathways. Binders or tackifiers should be used to tack organic mulches (see MULCHING, Std. & Spec. 3.35).

3. Tillage - This practice is designed to roughen and bring clods to the surface. It is an emergency measure which should be used before wind erosion starts. Begin plowing on windward side of site. Chisel-type plows spaced about 12 inches apart, spring-toothed harrows, and similar plows are examples of equipment which may produce the desired effect.

4. Irrigation - This is the most commonly used dust control practice. Site is sprinkled with water until the surface is wet. Repeat as needed. It offers fast protection for haul roads and other heavy traffic routes.

5. Spray-On Adhesives - Tremendous progress has been made in recent years in the development of products of this type. Most are effective on "mineral" soils and are ineffective on "muck" soils. These coherics are derived from a variety of compounds, both organic and synthetic based. Many of the adhesives will withstand heavy traffic loads. The organics include derivatives from pine tar and vegetable gum; synthetics may be acrylic or petroleum based.

The following table list various adhesives and provides corresponding information on mixing and application:

TABLE 3.39-A

ADHESIVES USED FOR DUST CONTROL

Adhesive	Water Dilution (Adhesive: Water)	Type of Nozzle	Application Rate Gallons/Acre
Anionic Asphalt Emulsion	7:1	Coarse Spray	1,200
Latex Emulsion	12.5:1	Fine Spray	235
Resin in Water	4:1	Fine Spray	300
Acrylic Emulsion (Non-Traffic)	7:1	Coarse Spray	450
Acrylic Emulsion (Traffic)	3.5:1	Coarse Spray	350

Source: Va. DSWC

6. Stone - Stone can be used to stabilize roads or other areas during construction using crushed stone or coarse gravel (see CONSTRUCTION ROAD STABILIZATION, Std. & Spec. 3.3).

7. Barriers - A board fence, wind fence, sediment fence, or similar barrier can help to control air currents and blowing soil. Place barriers perpendicular to prevailing air currents at intervals of about 15 times the barrier height. Where dust is a known problem, existing windbreak vegetation should be preserved.

8. Calcium Chloride - This chemical may be applied by mechanical spreader as loose, dry granules or flakes at a rate that keeps the surface moist but not so high as to cause water pollution or plant damage. Application rates should be strictly in accordance with suppliers' specified rates.

Permanent Methods

1. Permanent Vegetation - The application of PERMANENT SEEDING (see Std. & Spec. 3.32) and saving existing trees and large shrubs can help reduce soil and air movement from construction sites.

2. Stone - Crushed stone or coarse gravel can be used as a permanent cover which will provide control of soil emissions.